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CHRIS KERN

THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY

ANNCR: PRESIDENT FORD AND SENATOR HENRY JACKSON ARE THE BIG WINNERS IN THE PARTY PRIMARY ELECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND CHRIS KERN HAS SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE MEANING OF THE RESULTS.

VOICE: TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE PEOPLE OF MASSACHUSETTS LED A REVOLUTION AGAINST A DISTANT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN LONDON. THIS YEAR, THEY HAVE REJECTED THE ANTI-WASHINGTON, ANTI-CENTRAL-GOVERNMENT CAMPAIGNS OF THE TWO MOST PROMINENT CHALLENGERS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. IN 1972, MASSACHUSETTS WAS THE ONLY STATE TO VOTE BY A MAJORITY FOR THE LIBERAL LOSER, GEORGE MCGOVERN. TODAY THE VOTERS OF MCGOVERN'S PARTY IN THAT STATE ARE LEANING BY A CLEAR MAJORITY TOWARD THE RIGHT-OF-CENTER CANDIDATES.

BUT MASSACHUSETTS IS NOT THE COUNTRY, AND PRESIDENT FORD AND SENATOR HENRY JACKSON -- THE TWO BIG WINNERS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY -- BOTH HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IF THEY ARE TO BECOME THE MAJOR PARTY PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES. MR. FORD HAS TO CONTEND WITH THE STILL STRONG CHALLENGE FROM CONSERVATIVE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN. MR. JACKSON HAS TO SHOW THAT HE IS MORE POPULAR WITH HIS PARTY'S VOTERS THAN JIMMY CARTER, WHO IS SLIGHTLY TO HIS RIGHT, AND MORRIS UDALL, WHO IS SLIGHTLY TO HIS LEFT. ALL THE CANDIDATES, REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC, HAVE TO DEAL WITH GEORGE WALLACE, WHO SAYS HE STILL INTENDS TO WIN THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION BUT WHO WON'T RULE OUT A THIRD-PARTY CAMPAIGN IN THE GENERAL ELECTION IF THE DEMOCRATS REJECT HIM.

FOR THOSE WHO SEE THE WALLACE CANDIDACY AS THE WALLACE THREAT, THE RESULTS IN MASSACHUSETTS ARE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM IF NOT FOR JUBILATION. THERE'S NO PLACE IN THE COUNTRY WHERE MR. WALLACE'S

"BUSING" ISSUE IS MORE EMOTIONAL THAN MASSACHUSETTS, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERGOING A PROTRACTED INTERNAL STRUGGLE OVER RACIAL INTEGRATION OF ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE ALABAMA GOVERNOR'S THIRD-PLACE SHOWING IN THE PRIMARY INDICATES THAT HE HAS HELD ON TO THE TWENTY PERCENT SUPPORT THAT SEEMS TO FOLLOW HIM EVERYWHERE HE GOES BUT THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO BUILD ON IT.

THE CHALLENGER AMONG THE REPUBLICANS IS RONALD REAGAN, AND THIS TIME PRESIDENT FORD HAS BEATEN HIM DECISIVELY. THE REAGAN PEOPLE ARE SURE TO SAY THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS RESULTS ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE NEITHER MAN CAMPAIGNED IN THE STATE. BUT IT WOULD BE STRETCHING THE REALITY TO SUGGEST THAT FORD AND REAGAN AREN'T WELL ENOUGH KNOWN FOR THE PARTY'S VOTERS TO HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE. THE REPUBLICANS IN MASSACHUSETTS SEEM TO HAVE REJECTED THE EXTREMES WITHIN THEIR PARTY JUST AS THE DEMOCRATS HAVE IN THEIRS.

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